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E.O. 12958: DECL: 3/09/2016

TAGS: PREL KPAL IS FR

SUBJECT: GOF REAFFIRMS NO CONTACT POLICY WITH HAMAS, WHILE

STRESSING HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS

REF: A. STATE 37552

¶B. PARIS 945

Classified By: Political Minister-Counselor Josiah Rosenblatt, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Poloff discussed ref A points on Hamas with MFA Cabinet Advisor for the UN/Middle East Christophe Guilhou March 9. Guilhou reaffirmed the GOF's no contact policy with Hamas and that France would not be receiving any Hamas delegations. At the same, he stressed the GoF's concern over the Palestinian Authority (PA)'s "catastrophic" financial situation, and concluded that the international community could not "asphyxiate" the Palestinian people. Guilhou added that the Palestinians needed more than humanitarian aid, and asked rhetorically who would pay the salaries of the PA's some 60,000 employees. Guilhou concluded that the international community needed to find a way to continue to help the Palestinian people, while maintaining our principled demands of the new PA.

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Stapleton